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NPIC/R-45/63  
March 1963

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT

S-9670

# GRID PATTERNS IN THE AKSUYEK AND KARASAY AREAS, USSR

25X1D



ARMY



NAVY



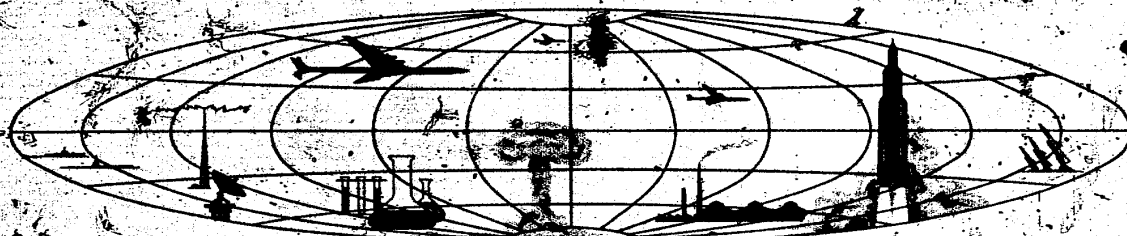
AIR FORCE



CIA

Declassification review by NIMA/DoD

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER



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GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and declassification

25X1

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## GRID PATTERNS IN THE AKSUYEK AND KARASAY AREAS, USSR

25X1D

Extensive grid patterns have been observed for some time in the Aksuyek (44-38N 74-31E) and Karasay (44-40N 73-48E) areas\* south of Lake Balkhash, USSR (Figure 1). 1/ Recent photographic coverage of these areas reveals that activity is continuing; several grid areas

have been expanded, only one significantly; numerous new buildings have been constructed in the Karasay area; open-pit mining at Aksuyek remains in operation; and several new areas of mine tailings have appeared near Karasay. The road south from Aksuyek is being improved, and construction has begun on a possible dam.

Grid patterns 50-75 nautical miles southeast of Aksuyek and Karasay near Otar (43-32N 75-13E) are the subject of a separate report<sup>2</sup> which was prepared as the first part of NPIC project JN-77-62.

The appearance of new mining activity in this region further supports the probability that the grid patterns are associated with geophysical or geochemical prospecting.

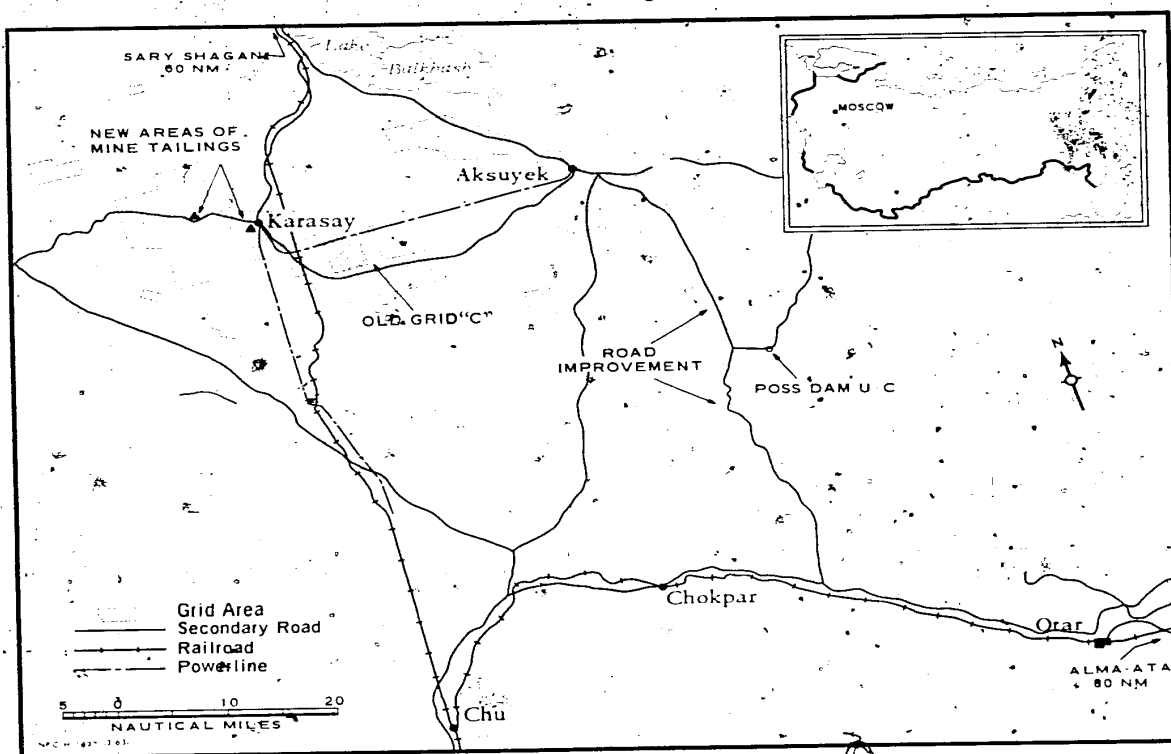


FIGURE 1. GRID PATTERNS IN THE AKSUYEK AND KARASAY AREAS. Grid patterns near Otar are covered in a separate report.

- 1 -

25X1

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25X1

TOP SECRET [REDACTED]

25X1

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## GRID PATTERNS

25X1D

As of [REDACTED] eight grid patterns had been identified in the Aksuyek area and 11 in the Karasay area. 1/ Changes since then have been relatively minor, except for a considerable expansion of the grid area "C" to the southeast of Karasay (Figure 1). Some of the older grid patterns are becoming indistinct and

their boundaries are difficult to determine. Grid "C", however, is quite distinct; it is of the dense-array type and has shown a 100-percent increase in area since [REDACTED]

25X1D

## AKSUYEK AREA

No changes of great significance have taken place in the Aksuyek area since [REDACTED]

25X1D



FIGURE 2. AKSUYEK AREA [REDACTED]

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- 2 -

TOP SECRET [REDACTED]

K1

TOP SECRET [REDACTED]

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(Figure 2). Minor changes include construction of approximately 60 new buildings, most of which appear to be housing units; removal of about 10 scattered buildings; continued mining as evidenced by the larger diameter of the open-pit mine and the larger piles of tailings; and a small enlargement of the secured explosives storage area. There is also activity approximately 25 nautical miles south of Aksuyek which may indicate the first stages of dam construction (Figure 1).

The most evident of these is the appearance of six areas of mine tailings, three immediately west of Karasay (Figure 3) and three several miles farther west (Figure 4). Three new secured areas spaced along a road from Karasay east to the railroad and containing a total of 50 buildings are also of importance (Figure 3). Changes in Karasay itself consist of the addition of 22 scattered buildings, 12 of which are probably housing units.

#### KARASAY AREA

Several changes of significance have taken place in the Karasay area since [REDACTED]

#### TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES

Transportation facilities and utilities of the Aksuyek and Karasay areas remain relatively unchanged since [REDACTED]. The road south from

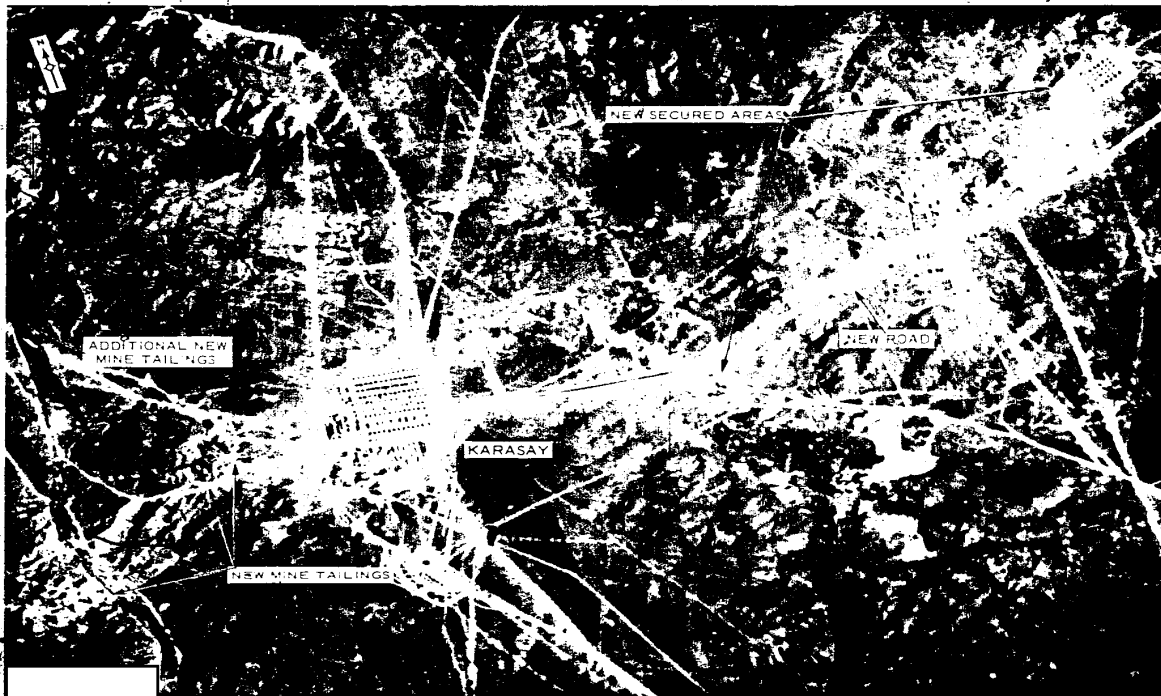


FIGURE 3. KARASAY AREA [REDACTED]

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TOP SECRET [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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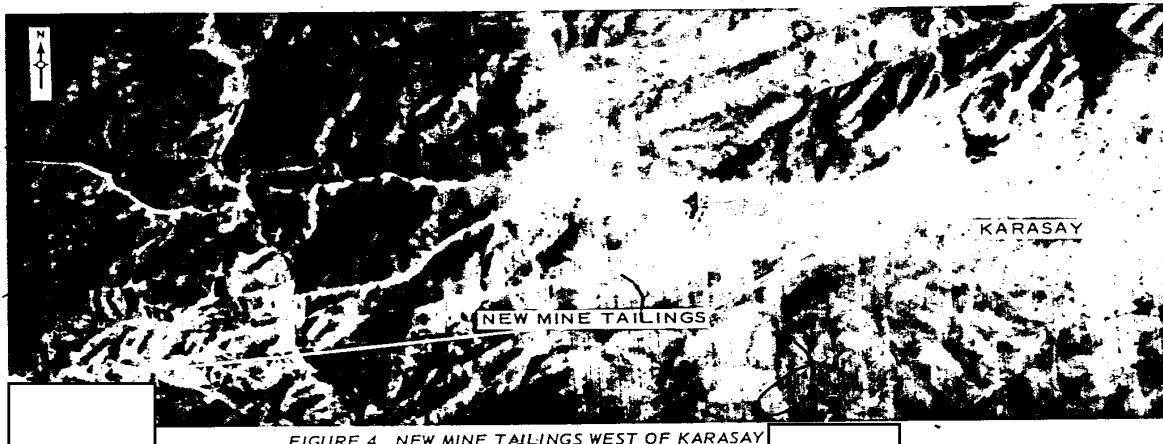


FIGURE 4. NEW MINE TAILINGS WEST OF KARASAY [REDACTED]

25X1D

Aksuyek is being improved and straightened, and several new minor roads support the increased mining activity around Karasay.

#### CONCLUSIONS

The function of the numerous grid patterns in the Akuyek and Karasay areas cannot be specifically determined at this time. However, the bulk of evidence suggests an association with mining activity, probably geophysical or geochemical prospecting. The primary factor

supporting this probability is the recent appearance of six new areas of mine tailings in the center of the grid areas near Karasay. These new mine tailings, coupled with the open-pit mining at Aksuyek, indicate mineral exploitation.

25X9

25X1

TOP SECRET [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

TOP SECRET [REDACTED]

25X1

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REFERENCES

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY



25X1D

MAPS OR CHARTS

IACIC. World Aeronautical Chart 245, 4th ed, Dec 56, scale 1:1,000,000 (UNCLASSIFIED)

AMS. Series ESPA-1. Sheet NL43-10, 1st ed, Nov 61, scale 1:250,000 (TOP SECRET [REDACTED])

AMS. Series ESPA-1. Sheet NL43-11, 1st ed, Apr 62, scale 1:250,000 (TOP SECRET [REDACTED])

SAC. US Air Target Chart, Series 207, Sheets 0245-20AL and 245-25AL, 1st ed, Mar 60, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET)

25X1

DOCUMENTS

1. NPIC. R-54/62, Unidentified Grid Patterns in Aksuyek and Karasay Areas, USSR, Apr 62 (TOP SECRET [REDACTED])

CIA. PIC JR-1029 '61, Mining Complex, Aksuyek, USSR, Jul 61 (SECRET, [REDACTED])  
Downgrading Prohibited)

2. NPIC. R-44/63, [REDACTED] Mar 63 (TOP SECRET [REDACTED])

25X1C

25X1C

25X1

REQUIREMENT

25X1

CIA. OSI R-65 62, Apr 62.

CIA. OSI R-144 62, Jul 62

NPIC PROJECT

JN-77 62 (second and final part)

TOP SECRET [REDACTED]